posed to cover the remaining schools during the VIIIth Plan. The progress of implementation of Operation Blackboard is given in Annexures IV. (See Appendix CLXI, Annexure Nos. 40, 41, 42 and 43]

Recommendations regarding Agro-Economic Research

*238. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Review Committee for improving the performance of Agro-Economic Research Centres and their units; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The main recommendations of the Review Committee pertaining to improving the performance of Agro-Economic Research Centres and Units at the Institute included (i) the AER Centres to be put on a permanent footing, (ii) the AER Centres be made an integral part of their respective Universities retaining their separate identity, (iii) Strengthening of AER Centres/Units as also AER Branch of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, (iv) strengthening of analytical capability of the Centres by providing mini-computers, (v) undertaking studies covering fundamental problems of Indian agriculture and rural economic change including common studies of All-India relevance and inter-regional analysis and (vi) need for improvement of the timelines in the completion of studies and preparation of reports.

(b) The recommendations of the Review Committee were examined by Empowered Committee set up by the Ministry in March, 1984 and were by and large accepted by the Government. As a follow-up of these recommendations, the AER Centres have been declared permanent institutions by the Ministry on 21-5-90. The recommendations relating to the integration of A.E.R. Centres/Units with the respective Universities/Institutes is being processed and that relating to the strengthening of the staff of the Centres/Units would be taken up after the finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan. In order to improve the analytical facilities for research, the Centres have been provided mini-computers as also photo copier machines recently. Periodic reviews have been arranged with the Centres to monitor the progress of the research studies assigned to them.

New Steel Plants in Goa

*239. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any license to any firm for the setting up new steel plant in Goa;

(b) if so, what is the name of the firm and by when this plant is likely to start production; and

(c) what would be its estimated capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Government issued a letter of intent in 1985 to M/s. M.G. Poy Raiturcar (later changed to M/s. Marmagoa Steel Ltd.) for setting up a composite mini steel plant at Curtorim, Salcete, Goa. As per information filed by the applicant, commercial production is expected to commence by the end of December, 1991.

(c) As per information filed by the applicant, the proposed annual capacity of the unit is as follows: